Suggestion to modify India's economic policies at World Bank meet

1714. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's economic policies were lauded by the World Bank President during the inaugural address of the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Bank and the IMF, held at Seoul in October this year;

(b) if so, in what precise terms and in what context; and

(c) whether any suggestions to modify the policies were made at the Meeting; if so, what suggestions were made therein and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the context of World Bank lending to India, President's address has specifically complimented India's efforts at increasing oil production substantially as aslo the achievement of self-sufficiency in food production as a result of "the Green Revolution".

(c) The meeting was not the appropriate forum for commenting on the policies of individual member countries and did not therefor offer any suggestions to this effect.

Jute Corporation of India

1715. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints that the Jute Corporation of India is purchasing raw jute not from the growers but from the middlemen; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to make purchases from the growers directly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) The Jute Corporation of India is purchasing jute only from the growers in accordance with the Government directive.

West Bengal's demand for abolishing the Freight Equalisation Policy

@1716. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the 17th meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council held at Patna on the 24th September, 1985, the West Bengal Government representatives reiterated the demand for abolishing the freight equalisation policy; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken so far on this often repeated demand?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of the recommendations made by the National Transport Policy Committee, Government have already decided, in principle, to phase out the Freight Equalisation Scheme in respect of iron and steel. This will, however, have to be done over a suitable period of time so that the industries concerned have sufficient time for adjustments in the prices. Modalities and time phasing of the withdrawal of the Freight Equalisation Scheme in respect of iron and steel have not yet been finalised.

@Preciously unstarred question 1196, transferred from the 28th November, 1985.